# மதுரை அருள்மிகு மீனாட்சி சுந்தரேசுவரர்

# திருப்பூவணத்திற்கு வருகை

## தமிழ்நாடுஅரசு ஆவணம்

36ஆவது திருவிளையாடல் திருவிழா திருப்பூவணத்தில் நடைபெற்று வந்தது. இந்தத் திருவிழாவிற்கு மதுரை சொக்கநாதசுவாமி இங்கு எழுந்தருளும் வழக்கம் இருந்தது; ஆனால், பொன்னனையாள் மண்டபம் சிதிலமடைந்துள்ளதால், அவ்வழக்கம் தற்போது நிறுத்தப்பட்டுள்ளது. இம்மண்டபத்திற்கு அருகிலேயே திருமலை நாயக்கரின் மஹால் அமைந்துள்ளது. கட்டிடத்தின் நான்கு சுவர்களுக்கு மேலாக வளைவு வடிவக் கூரை (vaulted dome) அமைந்திருப்பது போன்ற வடிவமைப்பைக் கொண்டு, இது பிற மஹால்களைப் போன்றே காட்சியளிக்கிறது. திருமலை நாயக்கர் தாம் தங்குவதற்கான ஓர் இடமாகவே இதனை அமைத்திருக்க வேண்டும் என்று தோன்றுகிறது. இம்மஹாலின் ஒரு பகுதி மட்டுமே தற்போது எஞ்சியுள்ளது. இதற்கு முன்பாகவே மணி மண்டபம் அமைந்துள்ளது.

# GAZETTEER OF INDIA

TAMIL NADU STATE

## RAMANATHAPURAM DISTRICT

# TAMIL NADU DISTRICT GAZETTEERS

## RAMANATHAPURAM

By

Dr. A. RAMASWAMI, M.A., M.Litt., Ph.D. (Lond.),

STATE EDITOR, DISTRICT GAZETTEERS, (1961—68).

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M. KARUNANIDHI
CHIEF MINISTER

FORT ST. GEORGE
MADRAS-9

# FOREWORD

Gazetteer is the most dependable source of information for administrators, scholars and public on social, political, economic and cultural life of the people.

Gazetteer literature gained in volume and variety during the early British period. The earlier Gazetteers were written primarily for the use of British administrators. Yet they are recognised as repositories of accurate and authentic information about the land and the people.

The practice of Gazetteer writing was in vogue in this State as early as 1862 in which year the Government of Madras directed that a District Manual be drawn up for each district. These Manuals were the fore-runners of the District Gazetteers and the Imperial Gazetteers published at a later period.

After independence, when the need for revised District Gazetteers was felt the work of revision of Gazetteers was taken up as one of the important activities under Cultural Programmes of the Five-Year Plans.

A modern Gazetteer is not merely a guide book or a directory, but it deals with many important topics and serves as a reference book. A Gazetteer throws light on our traditions. It reflects our civilisation and is a mirror of society. Its study helps to illumine our thoughts of past with pride and to be hopeful about our future with confidence. The need of the Gazetteers will be appreciated more with the passage of time. These Gazetteers help us to know and understand the country and its people better.

By publishing the Ramanathapuram District Gazetteer, a valuable contribution has been made to the study of the social history of the District. It is comprehensive and informative in dealing with the important aspects of the life of the people of the District. I hope that this Gazetteer would serve as a useful guide to all those who are engaged in the administration, welfare and research activities of the State.

(Sd.) M. Karunanidhi,
14th June, 1972.

*Tiruppuvanam* (Sivaganga Taluk—Population 10,226) is 12 miles south-east of Madurai and 18 miles west of Manamadurai. It is situated on the southern bank of the *Vaigai* on the Madurai-Manamadurai Road. Buses ply to all important places around it.

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for the temple. But this is not dragged during the festival for the past five years. The 36th and 49th miracle of God *Siva* narrated in *Madurai Sthalapuranam* (64 *Thiruvilayadal Puranam*) relates to this place. The 36th miracle or story as narrated in Madurai Gazetteer is as follows :—

During the reign of Rajendra Pandya there flourished in Tiruppuvanam a very beautiful *Dasi* or dancing girl attached to the pagoda, named Ponnanaiyal. She was an ardent devotee of Lord *Siva* and whatever she received from her lovers, she spent in large to Brahmins, and in other charitable acts. As she was extremely anxious but unable to make a golden image of *Siva*, the God took pity on her and one night visited her in the form of a religious ascetic and promised to grant her her wish, if she would but follow his directions. He then explained to her, that she must place all her brass pots and iron utensils on the fire, after sprinkling them with holy ashes, and leave them there all night. She did so ; and next morning lo ! and behold ! she was possessed of a large lump of the precious metal. With this she immediately made an idol ; and she was so delighted with it that she kissed it on the cheek and embraced it. The idol was placed in the temple and it still bears the mark of the dancing girl's kiss.

Forty-nineth story states that Tiruppuvanam was the eastern boundry of Madurai. It is stated that during the reign of Kirti Vibhiushana was the general deluge. By this the whole world was destroyed with the exception of the buildings which immediately surrounded the shrine of *Sundra Linga* and *Minakshi* ; the golden lily tank, the Elephant Hill, the Bull Hill, the Cow Hill, the Serpent Hill, the Boar Hill and the Seven Seas and the town of Madurai.

In front of the temple there is the unfinished tower called *Raya Gopuram* which Tirumala Nayaka began but could not completed. It is said that he began as many as 64 other *mandapams* simultaneously and many of them remained incomplete. Examples may be seen at Madurai, Alagarkoil, etc. After this it is common to dub all hopeless ambitious undertaking as *Raya Gopuram*.

Adjacent to the *Raya Gopuram* is the *Mandapam* of Ponnanaiyal. The *Chockanathaswamy* of Madurai is to come here. Buthis practice has been stopped as the *mandapam* is in ruins. Adja, cent to this *Mandapam* is Tirumalai Nayak's Mahal. It is similar in design to other mahals in that there is a vaulted dome on the four walls of the buildings. This appears to have been constructed to provide himself with the halting place. Only a portion of the Mahal remains. In front of it there is the bell *mandapam* There are four *theerthams* (Holy waters) in the temple. The chief festival is held in *Panguni* (March-April) for ten days. The temple contains many stone inscriptions and copper plate *Sasanams*. King Seraman Perumal has visited this place. Saints Thirgnana Sambandar, Thirunavukarasu Nainar, Sundaramoorthy Nainart Karuvoorthevar has sung Tamil ballads in praise of this place

The Southern Railway passes through it. All the trains from Madurai to Manamadurai and vice versa stop at this railway station. This place was constituted into a Panchayat in the year 1888. It was electrified on 26th November 1951. It is the headquarters of the Panchayat Union of its name.

Tiruppuvanam is from the Tamil word *Tiru* meaning sacred, *Pu* in Tamil denotes flower and *Vana* in Sanskrit denotes garden. It means 'Sacred Flower Garden'. The place is known in Sanskrit as *Pushpavana* meaning the same. The name is derived from the following legend.

At the south-east corner of the local *Poovannanathaswamy* temple there is a holy water called '*Manikarnigai Thirtham*' founded by the Sun God. Bones of corpses immersed in this water would become fragrant flowers. According to the *Puranas*, *Dharumarajan* threw bones of his dead father into the water and was surprised to see the bones transforming into flowers. Hence the place is called Tiruppuvanam after this incident. Even to-day the bones of the dead are taken to this place and buried on the banks of the river *Vaigai* just opposite the temple.

There are many stories in the *Puranas* about Tiruppuvanam. The holy *Linga* is said to have appeared under the *Parijatha* tree grown by Goddess *Uma* and worshipped by the Sun God. One *Tirasanan* worshipped the Goddess first instead of worshipping the *Lingam*. He was therefore cursed to be born as a *rakshasa* for his fault. On learning the cause from *Naradha* he took a holy bath in *Brahma Thirtha* of this place and purified himself from the sin. *Dhunnannan* and his comrade committed sin by stealing from the palace. They, however, obtained salvation by drowning themselves in *Manikarnigai Thirtham*. *Urpalangi* secured a good husband by worshipping the goddess with '*Neelorpalam*' flowers. *Brahma*, the four-faced God, purified himself from the sin of having looked with an evil eye on *Oorvasi* the celestial dancing girl, when her garments slipped from her body, by constructing the temple and conducting a festival. King *Nala* said to have visited this place and celebrated the *Vaikasi* festival. There are many more stories about *Lakshmi*, *Vishnu*, *Uma*, daughter of *Thakkan*, *Markandeyar*, etc.

This place is famous for *Poovannanathaswamy* temple. It is one of the fourteen sacred Pandya great temples. This is a very old temple and must have been in existence before 7th century as Thirugnana Sambandar has visited this temple. One Kandasamy Pulavar who was in 1543 A.D. has written a *sthalapuranam* of this place. The temple is situated on the Southern bank of *Vaigai*. The temple is 400 feet long east to west and 327 feet broad north to south. It has a high outer wall. At the entrance of the temple, life like stone statutes of Tirumalai Nayak and his consort, Vallabha Sithar, Tirumal Nayak's Pradhani Chokkappa Nayakar, and Ponnanaiyal, the dancing girl devotee, are seen. There is a massive wooden car

and temple. Tablets on the walls of the temple contain these songs. This place has earned the distinction of being mentioned in the *Peria Puranam* and the *Thiruvilayadal Puranam*. About 40 years ago, with the united efforts of the people, Devakottai and Nattukkottai Chettiars performed *kumbabishekam*. Again on August 28, 1961 another *kumbabishekam* was performed. The Zamindar of Sivaganga is the heriditary trustee of the temple.

There are other temples viz., *Subramanyaswami* temple, *Perumal* temple, *Mariamman* temple, *Muniandi* temple and *Korakkar Sithar* temple. There are one Mosque and one Church at this place.

Town Panchayat Office, Sub-Registrar's Office, Panchayat Union Office, a Police Station, a Post-Office combined with Telegraph Office, a Deputy Inspector of Schools' Office, Electricity Board Branch Office, Food Production Supervisor's Office, a Board High School and a Panchayat Union Dispensary are located at this place. Telephone Public Call Office was opened on 1st November 1963.

A weekly market is held on every Tuesday. Considerable trade is made in betal leaves and cocoanut.

A submersible bridge 1288 feet long at a cost of Rs. 14,000 has been constructed over the river *Vaigai*. It was opened on June 14, 1963. Tolls are being collected on vehicles passing over the bridge.

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In front of the temple there is the unfinished tower called Raya Gopuram which Tirumala Nayaka began but could not completed. It is said that he began as many as 64 other mandapams simul-taneously and many of them remained incomplete. incomplete. Examples may be seen at Madurai, Alagarkoil, etc. After this it is common to dub all hopeless ambitious undertaking as Raya Gopuram.

Adjacent to the Raya Gopuram is the Mandapam of Ponna-naiyal. **The Chockanathaswamy of Madurai is to come here. But this practice has been stopped as the mandapam is in ruins.** Adja, cent to this Mandapam is Tirumalai Nayak's Mahal. It is similar in design to other mahals in that there is a vaulted dome on the four walls of the buildings. This appears to have been constructed to provide himself with the halting place. Only a portion of the Mahal remains. In front of it there is the bell mandapam There are four theerthams (Holy waters) in the temple. The

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There are other temples viz., Subramanyaswami temple, Perumal temple, Mariamman temple, Muniandi temple and Korak-kar Sithar temple. There are one Mosque and one Church at this place.

Town Panchayat Office, Sub-Registrar's Office, Panchayat Union Office, a Police Station, a Post-Office combined with Telegraph Office, a Deputy Inspector of Schools' Office, Electricity Board Branch Office, Food Production Supervisor's Office, a Board High School and a Panchayat Union Dispensary are located at this place. Telephone Public Call Office was opened on 1st November 1963. A weekly market is held on every Tuesday. Considerable trade is made in betal leaves and cocoanut. A submersible bridge 1288 feet long at a cost of Rs. 14,000 has been constructed over the river Vaigai. It was opened on June 14, 1963. Tolls are being collected on vehicles passing over the bridge.

## Overview of Tiruppuvanam

- **Geography and Location**: Tiruppuvanam is located in the Sivaganga Taluk and has a population of 10,226. It is situated 12 miles south-east of Madurai and 18 miles west of Manamadurai on the southern bank of the Vaigai river along the Madurai-Manamadurai Road.
- **Etymology**: The name *Tiruppuvanam* comes from the Tamil word *Tiru* (sacred) and *Pu* (flower), combined with the Sanskrit word *Vana* (garden). It translates to 'Sacred Flower Garden', and is known in Sanskrit as *Pushpavana*.
- **Infrastructure and Economy**:
    - The Southern Railway passes through the area, and all trains from Madurai to Manamadurai stop at the station.
    - It was constituted as a Panchayat in 1888, electrified on November 26, 1951, and serves as the headquarters of the Panchayat Union of its name.

- Local amenities include a Town Panchayat Office, a Sub-Registrar's Office, a Police Station, a Post and Telegraph office, a Board High School, and a Panchayat Union Dispensary. A Telephone Public Call Office was opened on November 1, 1963.
- A weekly market takes place every Tuesday, with significant trade in betel leaves and coconut.
- A 1,288-foot-long submersible bridge was constructed over the Vaigai river and opened on June 14, 1963, at a cost of Rs. 14,000.
- The town has one mosque, one church, and several temples, including Subramanyaswami, Perumal, Mariamman, Muniandi, and Korak-kar Sithar temples.

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**The Poovannanathaswamy Temple**

- **History and Antiquity**:
    - The temple is recognized as one of the fourteen sacred Pandya great temples.
    - It existed before the 7th century, as it was visited by Thirugnana Sambandar.
    - The temple structure is 400 feet long (east to west) and 327 feet broad (north to south) with a high outer wall.
    - The temple has many stone inscriptions and copper plate Sasanams. Its songs are recorded on tablets on the walls.
    - The Zamindar of Sivaganga serves as the hereditary trustee.
    - A kumbabishekam was performed approximately 40 years before the publication, and another was performed on August 28, 1961.
- **Legends and Miracles**:
    - **Manikarnigai Thirtham**: Founded by the Sun God, this holy water is located at the south-east corner of the temple. According to the Puranas, Dharumarajan threw his dead father's bones into the water and they transformed into fragrant flowers. Even today, bones of the dead are taken to the river bank opposite the temple and buried.
    - **Miracle of Ponnanaiyal**: The 36th miracle from the Madurai Sthalapuranam details how the devotee Ponnanaiyal wanted a golden image of Lord Siva. An ascetic (Lord Siva in disguise) directed her to place her brass and iron utensils over the fire with holy ash. The next day, the metal transformed into a large lump of

precious metal. She made an idol and kissed it, and the mark of the kiss is still visible on the idol.

    - **General Deluge**: The 49th story states Tiruppuvanam was the eastern boundary of Madurai. During the reign of Kirti Vibhiushana, the world was destroyed by a deluge, except for Madurai and its surrounding sites, including the shrine of Sundra Linga and Minakshi.
    - Other stories in the Puranas involve deities and saints such as Tirasanan, Dhunnannan, Urpalangi, Brahma, and King Nala.

- **Structures and Festivals**:
    - **Statues**: At the entrance are life-like stone statues of Tirumala Nayak and his consort, Vallabha Sithar, Pradhani Chokkappa Nayakar, and the dancer Ponnanaiyal.
    - **Raya Gopuram**: An unfinished tower begun by Tirumala Nayaka. It is associated with the 64 mandapams that were begun simultaneously but left incomplete.
    - **Mandapams & Mahal**: Adjacent to the Raya Gopuram is the Ponnanaiyal Mandapam (currently in ruins) and Tirumalai Nayak's Mahal, which features a vaulted dome. The temple contains four theerthams (holy waters).
    - **Festivals**: The chief festival is celebrated for ten days in the Tamil month of Panguni (March-April). The temple's massive wooden car has not been dragged during the festival for five years (as of the publication time).

## திருப்பூவணம் (திருப்புவனம்) பற்றிய சுருக்கம்

- **புவியியல் மற்றும் இருப்பிடம்:**
    - திருப்புவனம் சிவகங்கை தாலுகாவில் 10,226 மக்கள்தொகையுடன் அமைந்துள்ளது.
    - இது மதுரையிலிருந்து தென்கிழக்கே 12 மைல் தொலைவிலும், மானாமதுரையிலிருந்து மேற்கே 18 மைல் தொலைவிலும் மதுரை-மானாமதுரை சாலையில் வைகை ஆற்றின் தென்கரையில் அமைந்துள்ளது.
- **பெயர்க்காரணம்:**
    - "திருப்பூவணம்". இங்கு பாரிசாதப் பூவின் படிமம் சிவலிங்கமாக உள்ளது. எனவே சிவலிங்கத்தின் பெயர் "பூவணன்" என்பதாகும். இதன் காரணமாக இந்த ஊருக்குத் **திருப்பூவணம்** என்ற பெயர் உண்டானது. திருப்பூவணம் என்ற பெயரை 'Tiruppuvanam, Thiruppuvanam' என்று ஆங்கிலத்தில் எழுதி, பின்னர் திருப்புவனம் என்று தமிழில் எழுதிவிட்டனர். ஆங்கிலேயர் வருகைக்கு முன்பு, ஆங்கிலத்தில் பெயர்களை எழுதத் தொடங்கியதற்கு முன்பு வரை, அனைத்து ஆவணங்களிலும் தமிழில் "திருப்பூவணம்" என்றே எழுதியுள்ளனர்.
    - ஆங்கிலேயர் ஆட்சிக் காலத்தில் 'திருப்பூவணம்' என்ற பெயர் மறுவித் 'திருப்புவனம்' என்றாகிவிட்டது.
    - 'திருப்புவனம்' என்ற பெயர் 'திரு' (புனிதமான) மற்றும் 'பூ' (மலர்) ஆகிய தமிழ்ச் சொற்களுடன், சமஸ்கிருதச் சொல்லான 'வனம்' (தோட்டம்) இணைந்து உருவானது.
    - இதற்கு 'புனித மலர் தோட்டம்' என்று பொருள், இது சமஸ்கிருதத்தில் 'புஷ்பவனம்' என்றும் அறியப்படுகிறது.
- **உள்கட்டமைப்பு மற்றும் பொருளாதாரம்:**
    - தெற்கு இரயில்வே இதன் வழியாகச் செல்கிறது; மதுரையிலிருந்து மானாமதுரை செல்லும் அனைத்து ரயிலும் இந்த இரயில் நிலையத்தில் நிற்கின்றன.
    - இது 1888-ல் பஞ்சாயத்தாக உருவாக்கப்பட்டது.
    - இது நவம்பர் 26, 1951-ல் மின்மயமாக்கப்பட்டது.
    - இது இப்பெயரிலான பஞ்சாயத்து யூனியனின் தலைமையிடமாகவும் உள்ளது.
    - டவுன் பஞ்சாயத்து அலுவலகம், சார்பதிவாளர் அலுவலகம், காவல் நிலையம், அஞ்சல் மற்றும் தந்தி நிலையம், வாரியம் (Board) உயர்நிலைப்

பள்ளி, பஞ்சாயத்து யூனியன் மருந்தகம் போன்ற உள்ளூர் வசதிகள் இங்கு உள்ளன.

  - நவம்பர் 1, 1963-ல் ஒரு தொலைபேசி பொது அழைப்பு அலுவலகம் (Public Call Office) திறக்கப்பட்டது.
  - ஒவ்வொரு செவ்வாய்க்கிழமையும் வாராந்திரச் சந்தை நடைபெறுகிறது.
  - இங்கு வெற்றிலை மற்றும் தேங்காய் ஆகியவற்றில் கணிசமான வர்த்தகம் நடைபெறுகிறது.
  - 1,288 அடி நீளமுள்ள ஒரு மிதவை பாலம் வைகை ஆற்றின் குறுக்கே ரூ. 14,000 செலவில் கட்டப்பட்டு, ஜூன் 14, 1963-ல் திறக்கப்பட்டது.
  - இங்கு ஒரு மசூதி, ஒரு தேவாலயம் மற்றும் சுப்பிரமணியசுவாமி, பெருமாள், மாரியம்மன், முனிண்டி மற்றும் கொரகர் சித்தர் ஆகிய கோயில்கள் உள்ளன.

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**பூவணநாதசுவாமி கோயில்**

- **வரலாறு மற்றும் பழமை:**
  - இக்கோயில் 14 புனித பாண்டியப் பெருங்கோயில்களில் ஒன்றாகும்.
  - இது 7-ஆம் நூற்றாண்டுக்கு முந்தைய காலத்தில் இருந்திருக்க வேண்டும், ஏனெனில் திருஞானசம்பந்தர் இக்கோயிலை வழிபட்டுள்ளார்.
  - இக்கோயில் கிழக்கு மேற்காக 400 அடி நீளமும், வடக்கு தெற்காக 327 அடி அகலமும் கொண்ட உயர்ந்த வெளிச்சுவரைக் கொண்டுள்ளது.
  - கோயிலின் சுவர்களில் கல்வெட்டுகளும் செப்பேடுகளும் உள்ளன, மேலும் பாடல்கள் சுவரில் உள்ள பலகைகளில் பொறிக்கப்பட்டுள்ளன.
  - சிவகங்கை ஜமீந்தார் இதன் பரம்பரை அறங்காவலராக உள்ளார்.
  - சுமார் 40 ஆண்டுகளுக்கு முன், மக்களின் கூட்டு முயற்சியால் தேவகோட்டை மற்றும் நட்டுக்கோட்டை செட்டியார்களால் கும்பாபிஷேகம் நடத்தப்பட்டது.
  - ஆகஸ்ட் 28, 1961-ல் மற்றொரு கும்பாபிஷேகம் நடத்தப்பட்டது.
- **தொன்மங்களும் அற்புதங்களும்:**
  - **மணிகர்ணிகை தீர்த்தம்:**
    - சூரிய பகவானால் உருவாக்கப்பட்ட இந்தத் தீர்த்தம் கோயிலின் தென்கிழக்கு மூலையில் உள்ளது.

        - புராணங்களின்படி, தருமராஜன் தனது இறந்த தந்தையின் எலும்புகளை நீரில் போட, அவை நறுமணமுள்ள பூக்களாக மாறின.
        - இன்றும் இறந்தவர்களின் எலும்புகள் கோயிலுக்கு எதிரே உள்ள வைகை ஆற்றங்கரையில் புதைக்கப்படுகின்றன.
    - **பொன்னனையாள் அற்புதம்:**
        - மதுரை ஸ்தலபுராணத்தின் 36-வது அற்புதம், பொன்னனையாள் என்ற சிவபக்தையிடம் சிவன் தங்க உருவம் செய்ய அருளியதைக் கூறுகிறது.
        - சிவன் ஒரு துறவி வடிவில் வந்து, அவளது பித்தளை மற்றும் இரும்புப் பாத்திரங்களைச் சாம்பல் தெளித்து நெருப்பில் வைக்கக் கூறினார்.
        - மறுநாள் காலையில் பாத்திரங்கள் ஒரு பெரிய உலோகக் கட்டியாக மாறின.
        - அதைக் கொண்டு அவள் ஒரு சிலையை உருவாக்கிக் கட்டித் தழுவினாள்.
        - அச்சிலையில் முத்தத்தின் அடையாளம் இன்றும் உள்ளது.
    - **பெருவெள்ளம்:**
        - 49-வது கதை, திருப்புவனம் மதுரையின் கிழக்கு எல்லையாக இருந்ததைக் குறிப்பிடுகிறது.
        - கீர்த்தி விபூஷணன் காலத்தில் ஏற்பட்ட பெருவெள்ளத்தால் உலகம் அழிந்தபோது, மதுரை மற்றும் அதன் சுற்றுப்புறங்கள், சுந்தர லிங்கம் மற்றும் மீனாட்சி shrine ஆகியவை மட்டுமே அழியாமல் எஞ்சின.
    - **பிற கதைகள்:**
        - பிரம்மா, நளன், துண்ணன்னன், உற்பலங்கி போன்ற பிற புராணக் கதைகளும் இங்கு கூறப்பட்டுள்ளன.
- **கட்டமைப்புகளும் திருவிழாக்களும்:**
    - நுழைவாயிலில் திருமலை நாயக்கர் மற்றும் அவரது மனைவி வல்லபா சீதர், பிரதானி சொக்கப்ப நாயக்கர் மற்றும் நடனப் பெண் பக்தையான பொன்னனையாள் ஆகியோரின் உயிரோட்டமான கல் சிலைகள் உள்ளன.
    - கோயிலுக்கு ஒரு பெரிய மரத் தேர் உள்ளது. ஆனால் கடந்த ஐந்து ஆண்டுகளாக திருவிழாவின் போது இந்தத் தேர் இழுக்கப்படவில்லை.
    - ராய கோபுரம்: திருமலை நாயக்கரால் தொடங்கப்பட்டு முடிக்கப்படாத கோபுரம் இது. இது ஒரே நேரத்தில் தொடங்கப்பட்டு பாதியில் நின்ற 64 மண்டபங்களுடன் தொடர்புடையது.

- ராய கோபுரத்திற்கு அருகில் பொன்னனையாள் மண்டபம் (தற்போது இடிந்த நிலையில் உள்ளது) மற்றும் திருமலை நாயக்கரின் மகால் (வளைந்த குவிமாடத்துடன் கூடியது) உள்ளன.

**மதுரை அருள்மிகு மீனாட்சி சுந்தரேசுவரர் திருப்பூவணத்திற்கு வருகை**

36ஆவது திருவிளையாடல் திருவிழா திருப்பூவணத்தில் நடைபெற்று வந்தது. இந்தத் திருவிழாவிற்கு மதுரை சொக்கநாதசுவாமி இங்கு எழுந்தருளும் வழக்கம் இருந்தது; ஆனால், பொன்னனையாள் மண்டபம் சிதிலமடைந்துள்ளதால், அவ்வழக்கம் தற்போது நிறுத்தப்பட்டுள்ளது. இம்மண்டபத்திற்கு அருகிலேயே திருமலை நாயக்கரின் மஹால் அமைந்துள்ளது. கட்டிடத்தின் நான்கு சுவர்களுக்கு மேலாக வளைவு வடிவக் கூரை (vaulted dome) அமைந்திருப்பது போன்ற வடிவமைப்பைக் கொண்டு, இது பிற மஹால்களைப் போன்றே காட்சியளிக்கிறது. திருமலை நாயக்கர் தாம் தங்குவதற்கான ஓர் இடமாகவே இதனை அமைத்திருக்க வேண்டும் என்று தோன்றுகிறது. இம்மஹாலின் ஒரு பகுதி மட்டுமே தற்போது எஞ்சியுள்ளது. இதற்கு முன்பாகவே மணி மண்டபம் அமைந்துள்ளது.

- கோயிலில் நான்கு தீர்த்தங்கள் உள்ளன.
- பங்குனி மாதத்தில் (மார்ச்-ஏப்ரல்) பத்து நாட்களுக்கு முதன்மைத் திருவிழா கொண்டாடப்படுகிறது.

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காசிஸ்ரீ முனைவர் கி. காளைராசன்,
திருப்பூவணம் புராணம் முனைவர் பட்ட ஆய்வாளர்,
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